

MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for May 2, 2011

Tense crowd drowns out Florida pastor's message

From the Detroit News, 4/30/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110430/METRO01/104300359/1410/METRO01/Tense-crowd-drowns-out-Florida-pastor%E2%80%99s-message>

Dearborn — A controversial preacher's attempt to bring his anti-Islam gospel to this heavily Arab community Friday was repelled by protesters who drowned out his remarks and, at one point, hurled shoes and water bottles at him.

'Physical requirements' in Ann Arbor city administrator job description are discriminatory, group says

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 4/29/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/physical-requirements-in-ann-arbor-city-administrator-job-description-discriminatory-says-disability/>

A group that advocates on behalf of people with disabilities is claiming the city of Ann Arbor's "physical requirements" to become the next city administrator are discriminatory.

Lawsuit against Bay City alleges gender discrimination in police department

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 4/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/04/lawsuit_against_bay_city_alleg.html

BAY CITY — A former Bay City Police officer is suing the city for alleged wrongful termination and gender discrimination.

Fair housing luncheon speaker: Your zip code should not determine your future

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 4/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/04/fair_housing_luncheon_speaker.html

When Ron Sims was the chief executive for King County in Washington state, he crunched some numbers, combined it with geography and came to a startling conclusion: Your zip code told a lot of things about your life and your future.

ACLU appeals firing of Walmart worker who used medical marijuana

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 4/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/aclu_appeals_firing_of_walmart.html

GRAND RAPIDS – The American Civil Liberties Union has asked a federal appeals court to reinstate a lawsuit filed by Joseph Casias, the Battle Creek Walmart worker fired for using medical marijuana.

Terry Jones says he'll sue over his arrest

From the Detroit News, 4/25/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110425/METRO01/104250347/Terry-Jones-says-he%E2%80%99ll-sue-over-his-arrest>

The controversy over Florida pastor Terry Jones is unlikely to end anytime soon.

College teams, relying on deception, undermine gender equity

From the New York Times, 4/25/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/26/sports/26titleix.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1

Ever since Congress passed the federal gender-equity law known as Title IX, universities have opened their gyms and athletic fields to millions of women who previously did not have chances to play. But as women have surged into a majority on campus in recent years, many institutions have resorted to subterfuge to make it look as if they are offering more spots to women.

White supremacist fliers distributed

From the Times Herald, 4/24/11

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/comments/article/20110424/NEWS01/104240330/White-supremacist-fliers-distributed>

FORT GRATIOT -- Ron Sample was shocked when he opened up a blue plastic Easter egg his wife found on his front yard Friday.

Pastor Is Accused of Helping to Kidnap Girl at Center of Lesbian Custody Fight

From the New York Times, 4/23/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/24/us/24kidnap.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha23

Federal authorities last week arrested and charged a Tennessee pastor with aiding in the "international parental kidnapping" of a girl who has been missing since late 2009 and is at the center of a lengthy custody battle between her two mothers — a onetime lesbian couple who were in a civil union.

Study suggests spark for bullying is found at home

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 4/23/11

http://www.mlive.com/health/index.ssf/2011/04/bullying_linked_to_violence_in.html

Kids involved with bullying are more likely to be exposed to violence at home, according to a [Massachusetts study reported this week](#) by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

ACLU scrutinizes State Police over device that grabs cell phone data

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/21/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110421/NEWS06/104210478/ACLU-scrutinizes-State-Police-over-device-grabs-cell-phone-data?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

A civil rights organization is urging the Michigan State Police to release information about devices it has that are capable of quickly extracting all kinds of information from cell phones.

Between Ourselves: Emily Dievendorf

From Between the Lines, 4/21/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=46612>

Emily Dievendorf joined Equality Michigan as Director of Policy in 2010. Prior to that, she worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, since 2002, for Democratic state legislators Alexander C. Lipsey (Kalamazoo) and Andy Coulouris (Saginaw). She graduated from James Madison College at Michigan State University with a degree in social relations.

Achievement gap in Ann Arbor prompts school board to confront concerns about racial issues

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 4/17/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/ann-arbor-school-board-discusses-race-and-achievement-gap/>

Ann Arbor Public Schools are making progress on closing the achievement gap between African-American students and white students, even as tension centered around the gap is emerging at the highest levels of the district.

Should LGBT history be taught in Michigan schools?

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 4/16/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/should_lgbt_history_be_taught.html

Would mandating gay history lessons curb bullying in public schools?

Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan renamed to honor gender equity activist Jean Ledwith King

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 4/15/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/the-womens-center-honors-local-gender-equity-activist-jean-ledwith-king/>

In honor of a local gender equity activist, The Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan has a new name.

Dismissal of EMU counselor who refused gay student draws GOP fire

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/15/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110415/NEWS06/104150372/Dismissal-EMU-counselor-who-refused-gay-student-draws-GOP-fire?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Some Republican state legislators are targeting Eastern Michigan University in the wake of its dismissal of a graduate student from a counseling program after she refused to counsel a gay student.

Immigrant rights group, ACLU seek changes to federal searches after Detroit school incident

From the Associated Press, 4/14/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/04/immigrant_rights_group_aclu_se.html

A coalition of organizations plans to demand changes in how U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducts searches in Detroit.

Hope College's sexuality debate remains a stalemate

From MLive, 4/12/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/hope_colleges_sexuality_debate.html

HOLLAND — Panelists at Hope College said the school is facing an identity crisis over a controversial policy statement crafted this winter, which attempted to recast the campus debate over human sexuality.

Court weighs rule to warn immigrants of deportation risk

From the Detroit News, 4/12/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110412/METRO/104120349/1409/Court-weighs-rule-to-warn-immigrants-of-deportation-risk>

Lincoln Park — Teresa Ramirez was angry at her ex-husband for a fight they had as their 10-year marriage crumbled, but she never dreamed he could get deported for pleading guilty to attempted domestic assault.

At Dearborn forum, law enforcement leaders say all faiths must be protected

From the Free Press, 4/12/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110412/NEWS02/104120447/1001/NEWS/At-Dearborn-forum-law-enforcement-leaders-say-all-faiths-must-protected>

Speaking at a forum in Dearborn, the U.S. Attorney for eastern Michigan said that Muslims and Islam should not be stereotyped.

Roskam Baking Co. lawsuit draws attention to mistaken identity as potential job killer

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 4/11/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/lawsuit_draws_attention_to_pot.html

GRAND RAPIDS – Leonardo Molina says errors on his background report, which wrongly said he had been convicted of a felony, cost him a chance to work at Roskam Baking Co.

Saline Schools students practice positivity, caring with peer listening and 'No Place for Hate' program

From Ann Arbor.Com, 4/10/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/saline/saline-schools-participate-in-peer-listening-no-place-for-hate-programs-to-encourage-positive-climat/>

In addition to their core studies, some 5,300 students in the Saline School District are learning how to be nicer to each other.

Black migration changed American culture, author tells GRCC crowd

From MLive/The Grand Rapids Press, 4/8/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/black_migration_changed_america.html

GRAND RAPIDS — When Isabel Wilkerson tries to convey to teens the oppression blacks suffered in the South, she pulls out the most relatable topic she can.

Michigan Civil Rights Commission Bullying Hearings

From ABC Channel 10 (Calumet, MI), 4/6/11

<http://www.abc10up.com/news.php?id=2061>

Michigan schools, and school districts, are doing a very thorough job of measuring student development in the classroom.